



# DISCOVER COMB RIDGE

Utah's 2006 Project to Celebrate the Antiquities Centennial

As a part of the 2006 centennial Celebration of the Antiquities Act, Utah BLM will embark upon a project that will expand the knowledge of archeological resources in Southeastern Utah and engage the public in understanding this special place.

“Discover Comb Ridge” will be an intensive five-year program to discover and document one of the most culturally-rich areas in the Four Corners. Comb Ridge, a magnificent 30-mile long sandstone monoclinal, and its adjacent drainages, are renowned for their numerous prehistoric sites, including standing architecture and Chacoan road segments. Although the area had been the focus of some of the earliest archeological expeditions, there is no comprehensive discussion of the sites in this area.

The Comb Ridge project will create such a dialog and build respect for our heritage resources. By bringing together partners, including local communities, research organizations, avocational groups, Native Americans, and the tourism community, a comprehensive survey of the area will be conducted and the incremental results will be shared with the public to help increase understanding of these resources. University of Colorado, Boulder, with Dr. Catherine Cameron as the Principal Investigator, is one of the primary partners to enable this research to take place. Collaborators include the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Abajo Archaeology, and the College of Eastern Utah, Blanding. Other activities include incorporating the local site steward program, Crow Canyon programs for the public and teachers, academic field schools, museum exhibits, public lecture series, and tours, and much more. *Continued on back*



## BLM's 2006 Antiquities Centennial Celebration

With the centennial of the Antiquities Act and the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2006, BLM will join with partners throughout the nation to celebrate the priceless heritage resources that exist on America's public lands. Working with local and Native American communities, building partnerships, and enlisting volunteers, the Celebration will showcase the nation's most diverse and significant cultural, historic, and fossil resources, and share with the public how they can help preserve these precious pieces of our past.

### Join the Adventure. Share the Responsibility.

The thematic foundation of the 2006 Celebration is stewardship – the responsibility of each person visiting the public lands to protect and preserve our heritage for future generations. In 2006, the BLM will revitalize its successful Adventures in the Past Initiative by inviting the public to now “Join the Adventure. Share the Responsibility.”

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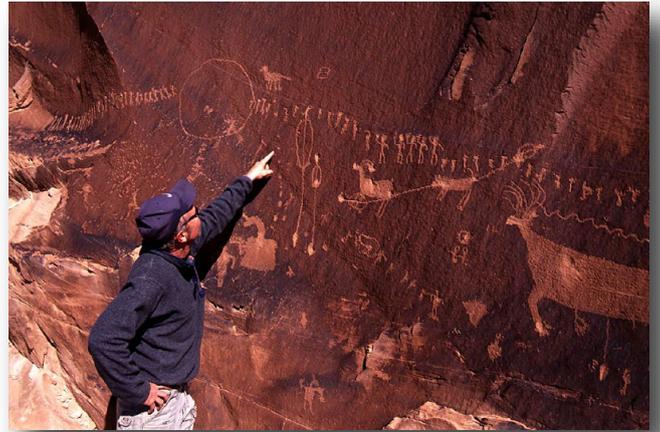
**Our Priceless Heritage:**  
Join the Adventure, Share the Responsibility

## Comb Ridge Project, Continued From Front

Several immediate benefits are anticipated. The data will enhance BLM's management of the cultural resources here, and allow better project planning, so that projects can be designed up-front to avoid conflict with important sites. Local communities would benefit economically from the influx of people participating in the project, and in the long-run as more people visit the already widely-known sites. Partnerships with the local communities are important to set visitor expectations and the appropriate level of development and interpretation of cultural sites, to balance preservation needs with tourism and infrastructure limitations. All efforts will carry a strong stewardship message.

Phase 1, beginning immediately, involves developing a research design and sampling strategy to ensure that the survey focuses on the most important aspects of the prehistory of the Comb Wash and Butler Wash areas. Work continues to involve various other educational and research institutions, as well as avocational archaeological societies. Preliminary discussions with Native American tribes indicate support for the project, and together we are designing various ways to directly involve Native Americans in the project, such as student interns and advisors.

More partners are needed to enable the project to not only be a successful research project, but also to share the results and stewardship messages to the public. Funding is obviously a key component, and several channels are being pursued. BLM has very limited agency funding, but can support the start-up of the partnership. Traditional academic grant sources are being pursued by the partners, who have been awarded grants in the past from the National Science Foundation and National Geographic for work in the Comb Ridge area. Partners and sponsors are being sought to help support the public linkages and programs, companion events (such as exhibits and tours), and the on-going work of the project.



### I WANT TO LEARN MORE . . .

Please contact Jim Carter, BLM Monticello Field Office, at (435) 587-1500 or [James\\_Carter@ut.blm.gov](mailto:James_Carter@ut.blm.gov) for more information on the Comb Ridge Project.



## BLM's 2006 Antiquities Centennial, Continued from Front

Through precedent-setting research projects, bolstered volunteer opportunities, outreach to the heritage tourism community, and education and interpretation programs, BLM and its partners will invite the public to discover the heritage resources on their public lands, while treating them with respect.

The Celebration is planned to forge sustainable partnerships and educational channels that will last far into the future. Only through a long-term approach can BLM and its partners ensure the protection of heritage resources in the future.

With this in mind, a comprehensive web site is being developed to facilitate communication about the Centennial and heritage resources found on the public lands. The Celebration will also build upon existing initiatives and partnerships including National Public Lands Day, Tread Lightly, and Leave No Trace.

### Outcomes and Benefits

Benefits of the 2006 Celebration are numerous. People throughout America will enjoy an enhanced awareness of their public resources. A heightened interest will bring more individuals to this region, to actively engage with heritage resources through a variety of programs such as site stewardship, partnerships for research and interpretation, and site stabilization. The message of cultural protection will spread far and wide. BLM will leave a lasting legacy of preserved heritage resources for future generations to study, enjoy, and respect.